

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 OPIC-12 DOTE-00

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 PRS-01 /106 R

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ARA/CAR:WBWHEELER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELTN, EAID, HA, US

SUBJECT:NORTH AND SOUTH ROAD PROJECTS

REF: PORT-AU-PRINCE 1357

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH THE IDB AND IBRD TO ASCERTAIN THEIR REACTIONS TO THE HIGH BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE SUBJECT ROAD PROJECTS AND TO DISCUSS THE STEPS THEY PLAN TO ADDRESS THIS UNEXPECTED PROBLEM. UNDERSTAND THE MISSION HAS ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND VIEWS OF THESE INSTITUTIONS DURING THE TRANSPORTATION/COORDINATION SESSION HELD IN PORT-AU-PRINCE THE WEEK OF JULY 29.

2. BOTH THESE INSTITUTIONS ARE QUITE CONCERNED THAT THE BIDS FAR EXCEEDED THE COST ESTIMATES BUT BOTH ARE COMMITTED TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS IF POSSIBLE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT A MONTH OR MORE MAY BE REQUIRED, HOWEVER, TO ANALYZE THE BIDS, TO CONSIDER DESIGN OPTIONS AND TO COMPLETE OTHER RELATED ANALYSES.

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3. IN THE CASE OF THE WORLD BANK, SINCE A SECOND LOAN HAD

PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONTEMPLATED TO COMPLETE THE RECONSTRUCTION, THEY TEND TO FEEL SOLUTIONS CAN BE ACHIEVED PROVIDED THE SOLUTIONS ARRIVED AT FOR THE SOUTH ROAD DOES NOT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOH TO MEET ITS COUNTERPART REQUIREMENTS

FOR THE NORTH ROAD ALSO.

4. OUR INTEREST IN THESE TWO PROJECTS IS WELL KNOWN TO THE TWO INSTITUTIONS. AID'S HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE LOAN IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO DEVELOP THE NECESSARY CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN THOSE TWO ROADS WHEN RECONSTRUCTED. BOTH INSTITUTIONS WILL KEEP US FULLY ADVISED AS THEIR ANALYSES PROGRESS TO THE POINT AT WHICH ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS CAN BE RATIONALLY FORMALIZED. KISSINGER

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